(c) whether to safeguard the interest of Indian workers there and those from Malaysia in India, Government has urged the Malaysian Government to speed up signing of a MoU between both the countries; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Malaysian Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) and (d) Steps are being taken for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Malaysia and India, which will lay down the framework for bilateral cooperation to facilitate employment, protection and welfare of workers. The negotiations have been completed. The two Governments are completing the necessary formalities for singing the MoU at the earliest.

Visit of Foreign Minister of Turkey

250. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Minister of Turkey has recently visited India and held discussion on several issues;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Foreign Minister of Turkey has offered an alternative to Iranian Gas pipeline; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further reaction of Government on such offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes.

(b) The two sides held discussions on bilateral, regional and multilateral issues. An Agreement for abolition of visas for holders of diplomatic passport between the two countries was signed;

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

PM's visit to China

251. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had paid a visit to China recently and held discussions with his counterpart on several issues;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and outcome thereof;

(c) whether the border dispute issue was discussed with the Chinese Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?